

Ordered also, That if propositions affecting the existence of an office are to be regarded as an impeachment of the officer, it is the duty of this house to secure them full force and effect as such; and that for this purpose, it is expedient that a committee of managers be appointed on the part of this house, whose duty it shall be to inquire and report specifically to this house, what are the charges involved in such propositions, that due measures may be taken for the trial of the same, in conformity to the charges made.

Ordered also, That if any such proceedings on the part of a member, are to be regarded as an impeachment of the officer, the state owes it as a duty to all her servants, not to permit any accusation which may be preferred against them, to be heard and determined without such previous notice to them, as will enable them to defend themselves against any such accusation; and that inasmuch as a proposition to abolish the board of public works of this state, has been submitted to this house at its present session, of which no official notice has yet been conveyed to the members of said board, it is due to them, and to their official character, which is deemed to be impeached by the proposition to abolish their office, that such notice should be given, and that for this purpose a letter should be addressed by the speaker of this house to the members of said board, apprising them of such accusation.

Ordered also, That if the establishment of such a precedent, for an investigation of the official conduct of the officers of this state, be deemed proper and necessary by this house, it is also proper to apply it to the cases of the auditor-general, and the state's agents, whose offices were abolished at the last session of the general assembly, by an act which was not to take effect until December last; and that as such abolition is, according to such precedent, to be regarded as an attack upon the incumbents of those offices, and as the question as to the propriety of reviving those offices will be much influenced by the consideration of the manner in which the duties incident to them were discharged, it is therefore proper, (if the precedent now proposed be proper,) that a committee be appointed to inquire and report to this house, whether the law of the last session was not an unwarrantable attack upon the official conduct of the late incumbents of said offices.

Therefore, Ordered, That the consideration of the letter of the late superintendant of primary schools, addressed to the speaker of this house, pro tempore, on the fifth instant, and communicated the next day to the house, relative to certain proceedings of this house respecting that office, be indefinitely postponed.